27th January 1956]

Government Technical Examination in Agriculture

* 3031 *Q.*—SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any Government Technical Examination in Agriculture (Higher Grade) was held in April 1955; and

(*b*) if so, whether the results have been published?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The results have been published in the Supplement to Part I-B of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 24th August 1955.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : May I know from the Hon. Minister the reason for such a long delay in publishing the results and also whether the candidates who have passed this examination would be absorbed in the National Extension Schemes and also the development schemes? 9–50 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, it takes some time for the publication of the results in the Gazette; but, I am sure that the results of the examination were published much earlier on the notice board and therefore there has been no undue delay in the publication of the results. With reference to employment of the successful candidates, I am afraid the hon. Member will have to put a separate question.

" Pappatam and appalam " industry

* 3032 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken any statistics regarding the labourers employed in " Pappatam and appalam " manufacture in Madras City;

(*b*) if so, the number engaged in this industry; and

(*c*) their living conditions?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) No data are available.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Are Government aware that there are about one thousand workers employed in this industry in Madras, that they have to work for 12 hours a day, that no provisions of the Factories Act or the Shop Assistants Act are applicable to them and that they are getting only very meagre wages? In view of this, will the Government please enquire into the matter and take steps to improve their conditions?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The hon. Member may put a separate question.